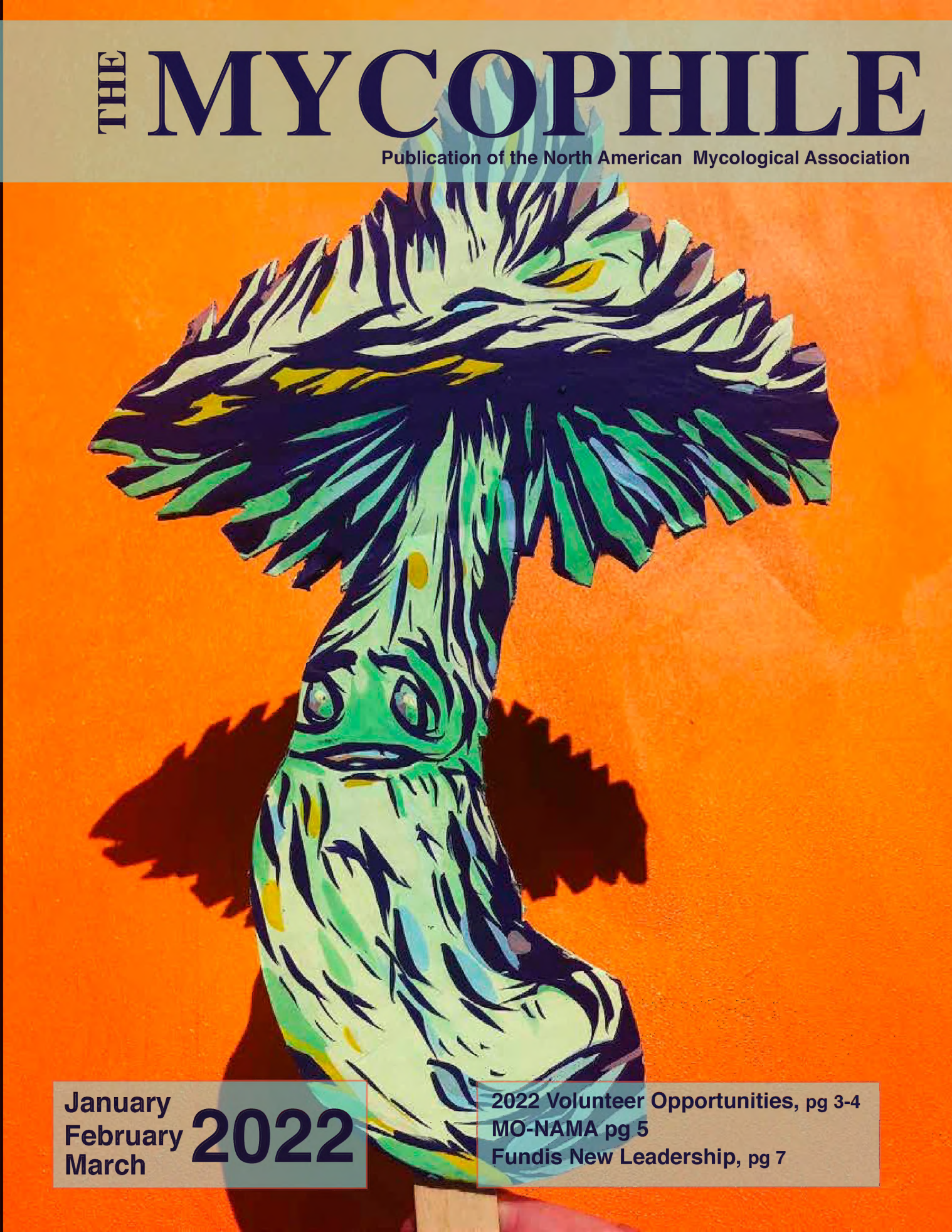
THE MYCOPHILE

Publication of the North American Mycological Association



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President's Letter
and Volunteer Opportunities

by Trent Blizzard

Thank you for nominating me to be President of NAMA this year. I am honored and look forward to serving. A big thanks goes to my predecessor, Barbara Ching, who left very big shoes to fill. Also, thanks to a few more volunteers who are going to step out of their roles in 2022 after several years of faithful service: Foray Committee Chair Sam Landes, ***Mycophile*** Editor Karen Monger, and Publications Coordinator Steve Trudell. You all have helped this volunteer organization more than most people know. We appreciate you and hope you will stay involved.

As I think about my first President's letter, I wonder what NAMA means to you? What do you want to get out of your membership? Put another way: why did you join and why do you stay involved?

I have spoken to many longtime members during my first week as NAMA president, and am hearing many similar answers:

- **Forays:** I want to attend and enjoy great forays.
- **Education:** I want to learn more about the topic I love.
- **Support:** I want to support the profession and hobby of Mycology.
- **Relationships:** I want to maintain and develop relationships with like-minded people.
- **Mushrooms:** I love mushrooms.

Do any of these ring true for you? Is there something missing from the list?

This is an easy answer for me: relationships. True, I love the mushrooms, seek the education, attend the forays and support the whole endeavor. But, lasting friendships are what make my world go

Kristen and Trent Blizzard

'round. Connectedness is what I crave, especially this day-and-age when our world seems to have grown splintered. Real, meaningful connections - not just Facebook likes and Instagram updates.

Mushrooms have a unique way of connecting us. A shared language. A shared passion. When two people share a passion, it creates a bridge where there had been a chasm. Through my love of mushrooms, all of a sudden, I find myself connecting and relating to people that I may have avoided, overlooked or just not had the opportunity to know. I can't help but think our world would be a better place if we shared more passions together. Especially the passions that are indifferent to our differences.

Are you searching for meaningful connections and relationships? If so, please allow me to make a suggestion: volunteer! Join a small committee of like-minded people. Meet virtually on a regular basis and accomplish a few goals together. Be a leader through service. Build a team, overcome obstacles, communicate, compromise and collaborate.

If these ideas excite you, please, act on that excitement right now. NAMA has about 12 teams, which we call committees; as a member, you are free to join them and use them to connect to more like-minded humans across the continent. Please email president@namyco.org if you have any questions or to express your interest. We could use your help in 2022 and beyond!

NAMA Volunteer Opportunities

Get more involved with our community and make a difference in the world. We really could use your help! If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact Trent directly via email at president@namyco.org.

Foray Committee Chair: This important role has been aptly filled by Sam Landes for the last 6 forays. This Committee Chair not only helps us select the foray location, but also guides a whole committee of individuals that produce the annual affair.

Visual Arts Committee
The Visual Arts committee is actively seeking an individual with photography skills. Work with our team to coordinate arts-related sessions at the annual foray. Help oversee art contests and be the point-person for photography related opportunities.

Culinary Arts
Seeking hungry mushroom lovers who want to share their culinary expertise. Let's get beyond just sharing recipes and start teaching the world how to feature Kingdom Fungi in entrees, appetizers, desserts and even cocktails. Must be ready to organize food-centric events at our annual foray and write articles for the Mycophile.

Facebook Fan
The Marketing Committee seeks a rockstar to oversee our Facebook presence. Must be social -media savvy, play well with Instagram and be committed to fostering helpful discourse. Should know the difference between a page and a group. Let's connect and see if you are a good fit!

Desperately Seeking Web Help
The Website Committee is searching for individuals who can help update our awesome namyco.org website. We have a lot of content that needs freshening up! Plus, we are eyeing a major revamp in the future.

Grow It If You Know It
The Cultivation Committee is seeking a few enthusiastic cultivators to help spread the spores. Must be ready to help provide educational programming, newsletter articles, and answer questions from budding cultivators.

Financial Savvy Advisor
The Financial Committee seeks a few folks with money smarts who will help us manage the endowment, budget and generally keep all our financial ducks in a row.

Let's Teach the Kids
The Education Committee wants to get children involved in mycology. Help create ideas, activities, and curriculum to share fungus with the "youngus amongus."

Medicinal Mushroom Committee
The medicinal mushroom committee needs a few folks enthusiastic about the medicinal qualities of mushrooms. Please be ready to help write articles and organize educational opportunities.

NAMA On the Cusp

By Dave Layton, NAMA 1st Vice President

My older son never had much interest in fungi other than hunting morels, so I was pleasantly surprised when he started telling me about the wonders of mycorrhiza and how fungi are responsible for the existence of all life on earth. He'd just watched *Fantastic Fungi* on Netflix. I chuckled that he was now relating to me with amazement things I'd told him decades ago. It's not what is said but rather how, who and when it's said that makes all the difference, and that's fine with me.

The important thing is that there is an awareness of fungi in America that is far beyond what it has ever been, and NAMA is poised to be at the forefront of that awareness, if NAMA members are willing to work to make NAMA everything it could be. NAMA is on the cusp of capitalizing on Americans' new-found interest in fungi, but we're also in danger of having little to offer when people come seeking information, guidance, and support. Our members have a wealth of knowledge, wonder, and history to share. We also have an organizational structure, committee system, and an amazing foray all designed to share our knowledge and wonder, but we will have too little to offer if we fail to find members who are willing to take the effort to fill that structure. Right now too many of our working committees are lacking membership and some are lacking leadership.

NAMA President, Trent Blizzard, shares where NAMA most needs support in his message. Please think seriously about what you can do. Trent also talks about relationships being the most important thing to him about NAMA. I confess that until now I really only knew Barbara Ching who is also from Iowa, but in the past few months I've started to meet others which I'm finding to be quite enjoyable. I'm excited about working with all these folks and meeting them at the National foray in Missouri this year. In a couple years I'm sure that the relationships I make will be the most important aspect of NAMA for me too. Indeed, building relationships will be key to a successful future for NAMA.

So once again I say NAMA is on the cusp of doing important things for our world by protecting, promoting, and preparing it for the wonders of fungi. So what is NAMA? It's every person reading this newsletter. And if every one of you asks a board member "How can I help?" we'll learn a little more about you and give you a personalized answer. It's time for all of us to seize the day together!

MO-NAMA 2022

by Maxine Stone and Kathy Yerich

September 29 through October 2 2022

Trout Lodge, Potosi, Missouri

Put these dates on your calendar NOW! This fall there will be a fabulous NAMA Annual Foray, in partnership with MOMS.

You may ask, what is MOMS? It is the Missouri Mycological Society lovingly called MOMS, a proud NAMA-affiliated club that engaged in extensive planning for the 2020 Annual Foray. But we all know what happened then… So, the last weekend in September 2022, MOMS will get the chance to show you around our neck of the North American woods! Here's the MOMS website: https://momyco.org/

Missouri is a large state with diverse natural habitats, so MOMS consists of 5 dynamic chapters with over 400 members total. Our club takes pride in offering lots of forays, monthly educational Zoom meetings and many other events, including an annual winter luncheon, mushroom dinners at restaurants, our spring Morel Madness, our summer Sweat and Chanterelles**,** and so much more. You can bet that MOMS will bring that energy, enthusiasm and organization to the NAMA Annual Foray!

NAMA's 2022 Annual Foray will be held at the Trout Lodge YMCA in Potosi, Missouri, a sister property to last year's Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado, located about 1 ½-2 hours from St Louis. **Transportation from the airport will be available!**

From the Trout Lodge website: https://gwrymca.org/locations/ymca-trout-lodge "... just 90 minutes from St. Louis, is a family-favorite nonprofit resort with a whole host of amenities and facilities, all within walking distance from one another. Everything is nestled into gently rolling forest-covered hills beside a beautiful lake."

This is a picturesque and comfortable facility for NAMA to convene, featuring 60 guest rooms, all with gorgeous lake views. Inside the lodge is a reading lounge, television in the lounge area and board games. The large outside deck has seating, tables and ping-pong tables. They provide soap, towels, bedding and housekeeping services. Pack 'N' Plays, hairdryers, irons/boards and mini-refrigerators are available upon request at the front desk. Handicapped-accessible rooms are available and can be reserved upon request.

There are also ten lake-view and ten forest-view cabins that feature accommodations for up to ten people, each with a fireplace, couch, table and chairs, screened-in porch, crib, microwave and mini-refrigerator. There is Wi-Fi throughout the grounds of the resort, but there are no televisions in the rooms or cabins.

There is a lot to do when not mushroom hunting and/or for partners who choose not to hunt mushrooms. Horseback riding, zip line, water sports, games galore, and so much you'll need to look at their website to find out. There's also a lot to do in the surrounding area, including a nice winery, antique shops, golf, Elephant Rocks, Tom Sauk Mountain, Minna Falls, Johnson Shut-ins and lots more.

Our forays will take place in the middle of the Mark Twain National Forest. With 1.5 million acres of public land, over 750 miles of trails and 350 miles of perennial streams; Mark Twain National Forest has everything you could think of for wonderful mushroom hunting. Miles and miles of trails wind through the various sections that are perfect for hiking and mushroom hunting — and we definitely are here for the mushrooms!

What will we find at that time of the year, you

MO-NAMA 2022 continued

ask? Here's a list provided by venerable NAMA member, renowned author and south-central North American mycologist and President of the NAMA-affiliated Arkansas Mycological Society Jay Justice who, along with NAMA Institutional Trustee Dr. Andrew Methven, will serve as one of TWO Chief Mycologists! These engaging, brilliant people both have extensive experience as Chief Mycologists for MOMS and NAMA going back many years and we are fortunate to have both confirmed to lead this event.

The area abounds in delicious edible fungi, including the following species:

- Ringed Honey Mushroom (*Armillaria mellea*) and the Ringless Honey Mushroom (*Desarmillaria caespitosa*)

- Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus)*

- Lion's Mane (*Hericium erinaceus*) and the Comb Tooth (*H. coralloides*)

- Beefsteak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*) (good chance of finding some specimens of this fungus)

- Hedgehog Mushrooms (members of the genus *Hydnum*) – we have several species of this genus in MO.

- Lobster Mushroom (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*)

- Blewit (*Lepista nuda*)

- Hen of the Woods (*Grifola frondosa*) maybe! might be a bit early for Hens…

- Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) – most definitely

- Cauliflower Mushroom (*Sparassis spathulata*) – good chance of seeing some of these

- Black Trumpets (*Craterellus fallax*) – there is a fairly good chance of some of these being found

- Chanterelles(*Cantharelluscinnabarinus* and/or *C. corallinus*, *C. lateritius"* and also *Craterellus ignicolor)*

- Puffballs (*Lycoperdon pyriforme*, *L. perlatum*, *Calvatia cyathiformis*, *C. craniiformis)*

Of course, we will also be on the lookout for many other mushrooms, including but not limited to the following:

- Boletes, perhaps including *Imleria pallida*, *Butyriboletus frostii*, *Boletus curtisii*, *Aureoboletus innixus*, *A. auriporus*, *Leccinum longicurvipes*, *Strobilomyces spp.*, *Tylopilus* and *Xanthoconium spp.*

- Coral Fungi such as *Artomyces pyxidatus*, various species of *Clavaria*, *Clavaridelphus* and *Ramaria*

- Puffballs – *Lycoperdon pyriforme*, *L. perlatum*, *Calvatia cyathiformis*, *C. craniiformis*

- Milky Caps (*Lactarius*) – several species including *L. paradoxus* and *L. chelidonium* as well as *L. imperceptus* and *L. chrysorrheus*

- *Amanita* species, including *Amanita polypyramis*, *A. brunnescens* (the American Blusher) (members of the *A. amerirubescens* complex) and the Yellow Blusher (*A. flavorubens*)

- Among the more rarely encountered fungi we will hope to find and learn are *Pluteus mamillatus,* a *Pluteus* with a partial veil and *Podocypha aculeata,* which is known in the central United States but not often encountered in other areas

Look for more details and registration info coming by the first of May. So please save the dates and plan to join us for MONAMA 2022!

Questions and suggestions are welcome! Please contact NAMA's MOMS Liaison, Maxine Stone, at VeryMaxine@aol.com or NAMA Foray Chair Sam Landes at treasurer@gamushroomclub.org

FUNGAL DIVERSITY SURVEY

Fungal Diversity Survey Announces New Leadership

By Gabriela D'Elia

Fungal Diversity Survey, aka FunDiS is excited to announce a new leadership team in 2022. Ken Buegeleisen is the new President of the Board and Gabriela D'Elia is Director of FunDiS. Both Ken and Gabriela are also involved in the leadership of NAMA-affiliated clubs. Ken is the Treasurer of Sonoma County Mycological Association, as well as the treasurer for FunDiS. Gabriela, who began with FunDiS as volunteer Deep Funga

Blog Editor, is also Vice President of Mushroom Society of Utah and FunDiS Local Project Leader for Northern Utah Funga.

FunDiS was co-founded by Bill Sheehan and Stephen Russell as a non-profit organization focused on community science. Established in 2017 as the North American Mycoflora Project, Inc., the organization originally focused on creating a complete funga for North America – a comprehensive description of the continent's macrofungi.

Sequencing and vouchering fungal specimens was a central part of the work, with members of some 200 local projects sequencing more than 8,000 specimens from across North America. In 2020, the organization rebranded as FunDiS and sharpened focus to enlisting community scientists to help conserve fungi and their habitats.

Now, FunDiS celebrates another milestone: a transition of leadership to a new generation of mycophiles.

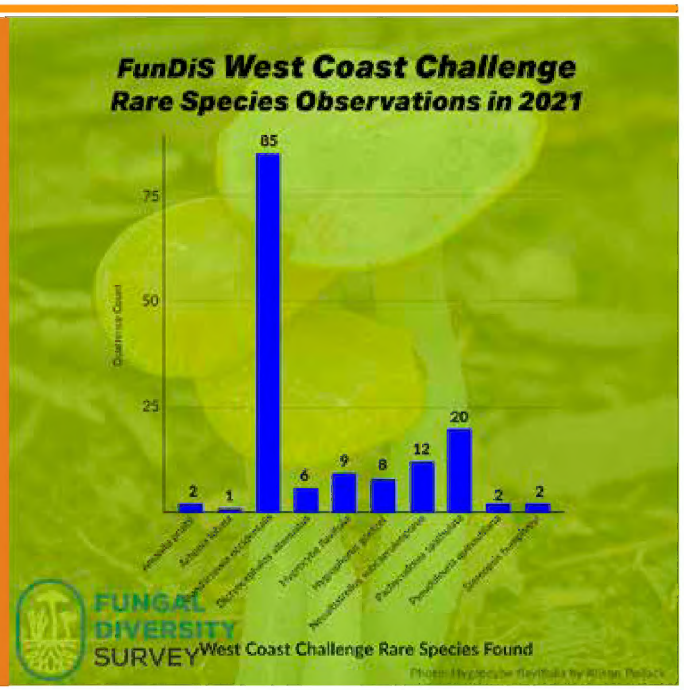
As we begin a new year, FunDiS is distilling a strategy that builds up our conservation programs of Rare Fungi Challenges and the FunDiS Biodiversity Database and that works to make data from these programs usable for action toward protecting fungi across North America.

The year ahead holds a mycelium's stretch of opportunity for conserving fungi and their habitats. Awareness of fungi as vital to planetary health is gaining momentum each day. FunDiS taps into this widespread fungal awakening by providing mycophiles the tools to contribute scientifically valuable data for protecting fungi.

President Bill Sheehan and Vice President Joanne Schwartz are stepping down from their officer and management roles, but will remain on the board to help with the transition and fundraising. FunDiS is honored to have a team of leaders and volunteers, past and present, who are such dedicated friends of fungi.

From those who volunteer with us to those who share their high quality observations for our conservation programs, we are grateful for your help. Protecting fungi and their habitats is much more powerful with the support of you dedicated mycophiles. We look forward to the years ahead.

If you'd like to stay connected to our conservation efforts, check out our website, www.fundis.org sign up for our Funga Decoded Newsletter, https://fundis.org/resources/email-list and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.



The West Coast Rare Fungi Challenge was launched in Fall 2020 with the support and collaboration of mycologists and conservationists, and has generated a significant number of notable observations. Anyone can make observations that are valuable to science and conservation, helping us understand the seasonal fruiting patterns, geographic distribution, and actual rarity of a select number of mushrooms.

The challenge is continuing for year 2 and we are finding LOTS of *Bondarzewia occidentalis*, a polypore in the Russulales that is apparently not rare at all, but may be threatened by habitat loss. We also have found four *Dictyocephalos attenuatus* (same place in Wyoming as last year), and fewer *Stereopsis humphreyi* and *Pachycudonia spathulata* than last year. Of the ten species that were just added to the challenge in 2021, we have found one *Arrhenia lobata*, two *Pseudaleuria quinaultiana*, and in spring 2021 eight *Hygrophorus goetzei*!

One of the mushrooms just added in 2021 is *Dendrocollybia 'pycnoramella'*, a species that is still being described, so it is not searchable in iNaturalist yet. For that reason, the iNaturalist WC Challenge project settings capture all observations of the genus Dendrocollybia, and we volunteers pick through and search for ones that look like they're covered with short, peg-like bristleSo far we have not found *D. 'pycnoramella'*! Link to iNaturalist project

How can you participate?

1. Decide which of the fungi on the list might be growing in a habitat where you live or where you are planning to visit.
2. Check the FunDiS WC Challenge Webpage for trifold species pamphlets and other educational flyers to print and take into the field with you, or have the info handy on your phone.
3. If you think you've found one of the Rare Fungi, you should follow the steps on the pamphlet. The first step is to make a high quality observation in iNaturalist. Observations should include photos from several angles, the location and description of the habitat where you found the mushroom. You can also email us at WestCoast_rare@fundis.org.
4. We'd love it if you tag us on Instagram with a picture of your find at #westcoastrarefungi. A story of how you found it would be even better!
5. We are also very interested in the other fungi that you might come across in these habitats. We encourage you to contribute to the FunDiS Biodiversity Database on iNaturalist, and share your high quality observations there. Instructions are here.

We added 10 new species to the
West Coast Rare Fungi Challenge
Creating a list of 20 rare, threatened, or underdocumented species for you to help us find!
FUNGAL DIVERSITY SURVEY

As always, it's important to have a collecting permit for areas where collecting is restricted. Areas where a permit or permission is needed include private land, all National Parks and Monuments, as well as some land managed by agencies such as the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The Rare Fungi list has been compiled by mycologists Noah Siegel, Else Vellinga and Bitty Roy.

Thank you if you've already submitted observations or helped with ID! We are so excited to see what you find as the southwestern states enter their peak mushroom season. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what others are finding.

Marek Turowski Memorial Scholarship

Marek with basket of B. edulis, Photo by Kathy Yerich

In 2017, the Minnesota Mycological Society (MMS) and NAMA lost one of its most dedicated and beloved members, Marek Turowski. We mourn not only the loss of Marek's great knowledge, which he willingly shared with others, but also his spirit, and love of the camaraderie of mushroom hunting (and eating)! (The original rememberance of Marek can be found on page 8 of the JulyAugust Mycophile, https://namyco.org/docs/MycophileJulyAugust2017.pdf

During his courageous battle with cancer, one of Marek's goals was to attend the 2017 NAMA foray held in Cable, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, he was not able to fulfill that wish.

The MMS wanted to encourage and inspire its members to enjoy mushrooms and the international community of educators and enthusiasts as Marek did by giving them a chance to participate in NAMA's Annual Foray by way of a scholarship. Each year, this scholarship enables at least one MMS member to attend in Marek's honor.

Applicants submit a short essay, describing how attending the foray will enhance their knowledge, understanding and experience of mushrooms and the greater mycological community. The board votes on the winning essay, which is then shared in the MMS newsletter.

Each year at least one recipient is chosen to receive a one-year membership to the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) and paid, priority registration for the NAMA Annual Foray, which includes all lectures and field trips, plus room and board. The participant is responsible for travel to the foray location from their home. The essay following this article, is from Rose Maney, one of MMS' two 2021 winners.

After the foray, the winning participant also shares a recap of their experience through a presentation at a club meeting and a brief article or photos for the newsletter. To date, MMS has awarded five individual scholarships and enjoyed just as many thoughtful presentations with amazingly fresh perspectives on the event!

If you are interested in setting up a NAMA scholarship opportunity for your NAMA-affiliated club, but would like help, please email Kathy Yerich at marketing@namyco.org

Marek Turowski Memorial Scholarship Winner

Rose Maney

I LOVE STUDYING MUSHROOMS

by Marek Turowski Scholarship Winner Rose Maney

I enjoy learning about mushrooms because they reignite that childlike sense of wonder we all once had for the world around us. Some of us had our interest in nature snuffed out when it became something we needed to memorize for a test, something that science already knew everything about, so there was nothing left to explore. For others it faded with time, or stemmed from a physical disconnect from nature itself/ Nature Herself.

But mushrooms change all that. Because when you tell a grown-up that mushroom spores can survive in the vacuum of space, or that some of these seemingly passive organisms can actually eat other living things, you get a real reaction. Teach them how to spot even the easiest edible and they'll proudly show off to their friends. And like the mycelial network that nourishes trees and helps them communicate, the sheer weirdness and mystery of mushrooms can connect us all in appreciation of how wonderful and strange the world around us is.

And that's why I enjoy learning about mushrooms so much – because as an educator, when I share my knowledge with others, I get to share in that spark of joy that comes with rediscovering a sense of wonder toward the natural world. It's a world that we're a part of, though we tend to forget that. I love learning about mushrooms because you never stop learning, no matter how many forays you attend or books you read. There will always be new shapes, colors, mysteries, and impossible yet true discoveries to share in.

I love studying mushrooms because I get to share with others that sense of meditation when searching for them in the woods, or the chance to feel like a mad scientist when attempting to grow your own for the first time. I love knowing that I can give the gift of wonder by sharing my education with others, and seeing how it can bridge the gap between kids and adults, between science geeks and a curious public.

Being able to attend the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray would better equip me as an educator to be able to communicate and to pass on my understanding of mycology to the general public, or even those at Minnesota Mycological Society. The opportunity to earn from some of the country's best teachers would allow me to become a better mushroom educator in my community, and having the experience of attending forays in a biome I've never visited would grant me a deeper understanding of how mushrooms contribute to different ecosystems.

I've done everything I can to learn about mycology so I can be a good educator, from taking the Cornell Small Farms classes on Woodland Mushroom Cultivation and Indoor Specialty Mushroom Production, to signing up to be part of the Community Mushroom Educator Network. I've attended countless lectures and even grown my own mushrooms!

The opportunity to attend the NAMA Foray would allow me to take the next step in my understanding of mycology and enable me to gain the confidence and expertise to better contribute to the mycological community here in Minneapolis.

Aside from all that, the scholarship would mean the world to me because I'm working for AmeriCorps and my stipend doesn't allow me to be able to afford the full cost of educational trips like this one. Experiencing a NAMA Foray would be an amazing chance for me to grow as an educator and mushroom advocate.

Mycopreneur Podcasts

By Dennis Walker

Mycopreneur Podcast host Dennis Walker gets up close and personal with a curious family of fungi growing on a fallen tree branch in the Lacantún River of Chiapas, Mexico

Mycopreneur Podcast is a global community spotlighting fungi entrepreneurs operating in different sectors of the mushroom universe. Since launching in January 2021, *Mycopreneur Podcast* has featured 45 fungi entrepreneurs from 12 countries that represent niches such as mycomaterials, mycoremediation, multinational commercial cultivation, psychedelic therapy, and mushroom grow bag manufacturing among others. The podcast has spawned a global community and several fresh mycopreneurial ventures, and has given rise to the inaugural Mycopreneur Incubator happening in-person in San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, from January 26 to February 1, 2022.

Mycopreneur Podcast is hosted by Founder and Creative Director Dennis Walker, who is a member of the San Diego Mycological Society. http://sdmyco.org/ Dennis has an academic and professional background in Multimedia Production and has been fortunate to travel the world in pursuit of fungi knowledge and the people trading and leveraging it.

From the Telluride Mushroom Festival to the Andean Rainforest of Colombia, from the rolling hills of County Wicklow, Ireland to the Limestone Karsts of Vang Vieng, Laos, Dennis continues to plan his life and professional career around the study and documentation of fungi and the many diverse people who share his fascination and devotion to Funga.

Below is an excerpt from Episode 1 of Season 2 of *Mycopreneur Podcast*, released on January 6, 2022 and featuring Sophie Strand, an intersectional eco-storyteller based in the Hudson Valley, New York. Sophie walks us through her upbringing among the vibrant ecosystems of upstate New York, where mycorrhizal fungi and bird song helped frame her thinking about humanity's place in the living, breathing world of nature.

Dennis: How has your fascination with fungi helped to shape your creative process and your direction as a professional writer?

Sophie: It's funny. I wrote a book about fungi for a short project my senior year in college and my professors were very, very excited about it and I tried to sell it afterwards. And fungi were not hot then. No one thought they were cool and no one wanted my book. So I kind of shoved it away. And that was years ago, and then about a year ago I was like, you know, I think I'm ready to return to this thinking and into this idea of mythology and fungal connections, and how can we use that to compost our stories right now when we're trying to enter the human? And think more like ecosystems and less like individuals? And at that moment, I would say all my planning and how my writing happened went out the door and I started producing probably like 2000 words a day every single day until today. And it's been just a little bit like a possession experience.

Dennis: There's this myth of the creative lone genius, right? A myth that says you go out to the woods alone and you get this divine download, and then that is how creative geniuses are born. But I think there's evidence that most "geniuses" or people who produce great works are connected to community. How did you find your community and how has that community shaped your work?

Sophie: Well, I think I'll start with my favorite example, which is I always have felt like an exile to a certain extent because I'm disabled and I'm a survivor of early abuse. So those things have always made me feel like I'm outside of certain discussions or experiences, but especially because I've gone in and out of critical illness in my life. I've oftentimes identified with ghost pipe, a mycoheterotrophic plant, which depends completely on *Russula* or *Lactarius* mycorrhizal fungi to support it and to nourish it. It is totally relationally constituted; it can't take care of itself. We are created by community. Yet there is no lone genius. There is no ghost pipe without its fungal plug-in. And so for me, I've always really known that. If fungi teach us anything, it's to get involved. It's to follow our appetites and our desires and see where they take us.

Dennis: I'd love to touch base about your forthcoming book of essays titled *The Flowering Wand: Lunar Kings, Lichenized Lovers, Transspecies Magicians, and Rhizomatic Harpists Heal the Masculine* due Fall 2022 from Inner Traditions. I'd love to hear about how the idea for this particular book was shaped, and what you can share with us about writing this book. https://www.innertraditions.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA8vSOBhCkARIsAGdp6RQ6h1xIhwhCcrUI-9CU2Sh92hUwS1Nbz-806S0_yvgRqJWD2p-S7IvF4aArYTEALw_wcB

Sophie: I finished writing this book, which had been about Rabbi Yeshua and Mary Magdalene and rewilding Second Temple Period Palestine and Folk Judaism. So I've been really interested in how patriarchy has been conflated with masculinity. But masculinity pre-patriarchy wasn't necessarily a dominator. Bad things, like is there a way to go back and look at myths and stories and folklore and kind of compost them with modern science and philosophy and see if we can get something more ecologically resonant and more generous to men or to people who identify with some kind of threat to masculinity. Because gender is not biologically determined, it's just a cultural costume we put on. We should address how it's operating.

And this book that I had written about Rabbi Yeshua wasn't selling, so I started to just kind of write about all the research I'd done just thinking about, like, can we "rewild" stories of masculinity? And Dionysius had been a big research point for me because I always saw Dionysus as being on a rhizomatic continuity with Jesus.

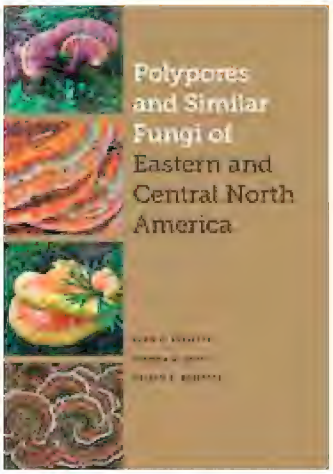
I'd been thinking about myths as being fruiting bodies, mushrooms above ground representations that look like individuals but that are really just reproductive events to sporulate underground. So Dionysus and Orpheus and Yeshua (Jesus) are all mushrooms of the same mythic mycelium that probably predates patriarchy. And I posted this stuff online. I kind of was just like, What if I wrote about this online and people loved it?

And then when my editor found me, I wrote the book in three weeks. It was crazy. It was an out-of-body experience. I also wrote it in conversation with other people; I posted it online. People would correct me and come back, tell me what they wanted me to write about and research. It was like it was not a solitary experience. It was like a party.

Dionysus has been submitted to a smear campaign by the Romans who are scared of him. He was a pre-Roman god because he inspired Spartacus and revolt against the imperial regimes. So you see, he's seen as the god of party, but he's also a god of the tools that dismantle the master's house; he's the invasive species, the fungi that come in and digest things from the outside.

So the writing of the book was kind of like a party, and then my editor found me through social media. I'd been trying to sell my novel through my agent and the very traditional way, but then I ended up selling my novel through social media - which is amazing and just crazy!

Book Review



Authors:
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University of Texas Press
2021, The Corrie Herring Hooks Series

ISBN: 978-1-4773-2272-7
448 pages, hardcover
$65.00 USD

Reviewed by Michael W. Beug

Contents: The 22-page Introduction describes the area covered by the book; defines polypores with their macro and micro characteristics along with a history of their evolution, their nomenclature and taxonomy, historical and contemporary uses; polypore and host tree evolution; forest regions; types of fungal decay; collecting and preservation guidelines; tips on identification and how to use the book and its keys. Pages 25 through 57 are devoted to dichotomous keys. Species descriptions and mushroom photos are contained on pages 59 - 381. Appendices cover microscopy, chemical reagents, how to make a spore deposit, the medicinal uses of polypores, and classification of species. Additional back matter includes a glossary, bibliography, author background, illustration credits, an index to common names and an index to scientific names.

Overall, this is a beautiful, well written, informative and much needed book, the first Eastern and Central North American polypore book in color. Many of the included species are also found in the western half of North America, so this book will have broad appeal. The language is clear, with a minimum of technical jargon so this book is approachable by users of all levels. I particularly enjoyed the introduction, especially the section on fungal evolution. I learned a lot from the appendices, especially the one on medicinal uses of polypores (even though I am more liberal in my approach to potential medicinal applications). Most of all, I value having a book that updates the naming of mushrooms resulting from progress in sequencing the DNA of many of our polypores and the recognition by the authors that theirs is just a snapshot in time of a rapidly changing nomenclatural and taxonomic landscape. A lot has changed since the publication of the long out-of-print two-volume work, *North American Polypores*, R.L. Gilbertson and L. Ryvarden (1986).

I found the descriptions to be clear and concise, though at times would have appreciated more detail. For example, a good way to distinguish *Fomitopsis mounceae* from *Fomitopsis ochracea* is to hold a match to the colored edge near the margin. *F. ochracea* will char, while *F. mounceae* will melt or boil (do this at home, not in the woods).

The names the authors used were largely in agreement with the currently accepted names listed in Index Fungorum, though there were a few exceptions that puzzled me. For example, the authors chose to use *Fomes excavates* (Berk.) Cooke 1885 instead of what Index Fungorum accepts as the proper (and commonly used) name *Fomes fomentarius* (L.) Fr. 1849. Also, according to Index Fungorum, the accepted name for *Trametes cinnabarina* (Jacq.) Fr. Is *Pycnoporus cinnabarina* (Jacq.) P. Karst. *Truncospora ohiensis* (Berk.) Pilat is back to *Perenniporia ohiensis* (Berk.) Ryvarden.

The color photos are beautiful, generously sized, and usually provide a clear view of both the upper and critical under surfaces of the polypore. However, in a few cases of wide-spread species, the image chosen is not typical of the species as I know it. The illustration of *Fomes excavates* is particularly beautiful but sufficiently distinct from what I know as *Fomes fomentarius* that I initially thought that we were talking about two distinct species, not two different names for the same species. The *Trametes ochracea* image is also quite different from what I expect based on our western material going by the same name. Indeed, one value of this new polypore book is that it might help us uncover additional cryptic polypore species when a western armchair mycologist (like me) does not recognize an eastern or midwestern polypore going by the same name as a familiar species. *Fistulina hepatica*, as illustrated by Bessette *et al.,* is far brighter red than any *Fistulina hepatica* I have ever seen. *Albatrellus ellisii* as illustrated on page 62 is very different in color from photos I and others have taken of this same species. Are we talking about the same thing? I am also curious about *Albatrellus confluens.* This is a European species. Is the eastern species the same? Curiously, I have very recently learned that our western bright blue *Albatrellus flettii* (a species where the blue fades in age), is a genetic match to the European *Albatrellus confluens,* a species that is never blue. The color of *Ganoderma applanatum* as illustrated is brighter than I expected based numerous western collections, collections that look closer to *Ganoderma megaloma*. Do we have multiple species? The authors recognize that this specific issue is a question in need of resolution. Is the reddish-brown *Jahnoporus hirtus,* shown on page 204 and a species reported to have an indistinct odor, the same as our western *Jahnoporus hirtus,* which is brown to gray-brown and often smells of iodine? The authors' description of *Laetiporus gilbertsonii* fits well with our western concept of this species, but their image is of a far more brightly colored specimen. Worth looking into? *Neolentinus lepideus* as illustrated by the authors neither matches their written description nor our western species going by the same name. Their chosen image for *Phaeolus schweinitzii* is clearly recognizable as a member of the five-species complex, but it would have been nice to have used more than one image to illustrate the range of colors found in this complex, especially given the huge amount of blank space on the two pages devoted to this spe-

cies complex. *Pycnoporellus fulgens* is another species I thought I knew well, but maybe I have never found young specimens like the ones shown.

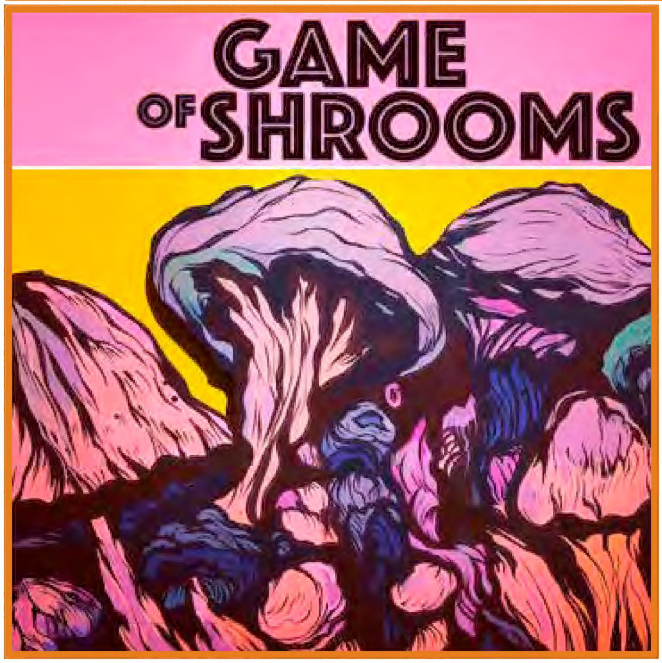
We need to be prepared for ongoing changes and the authors clearly are alert to this issue. *Fomitopsis durescens* has just been changed to *Pilatoporus durescens*, a name proposed but not yet accepted at the time the authors were writing this book.

So far, I have skipped commenting on the keys. As a member of the Pacific Northwest Key Council since 1975, I have long been dedicated to writing and helping others write and revise keys to Pacific Northwest mushrooms. I am delighted to see that the authors devote 27 pages to detailed keys. The first page plus a bit of the second page of their key leads us to two distinctive species and 13 subkeys (Keys A through M). The keys are strictly dichotomous, like most botanical and fungal keys. All choices come in a, b pairs. Unlike many fungal keys, where a knowledge of the microscopic features is essential to proceed, the choices are based on visual characters and so the keys can be used by both novices and professionals. I liked their first and second pair of choices. Lead 1a takes the reader to Key A, a key for all species with a smooth fertile surface, while 1b leads to everything else. Then lead 2a splits out the species appearing to grow on the ground (Key B), while 2b leads to everything growing on any kind of wood. In testing out keys A and B (and C-M) I was pleased to note that usually when a choice was difficult for a reader to make, the authors had keyed out the species in more than one place. For example, if a species grows on hardwoods but sometimes also on conifers, it will appear in both the hardwood keys and the conifer keys. All good keys should use this double keying where appropriate.

Problems reared their ugly head with Keys C through M. Key C, for example, look very straightforward. The specimen must be poroid and never teethlike, or lamellate or labyrinthine. I would have stopped there with the lead and Key C would have been a substantial key with some significant branches in it. However, the authors limited this key to species with a fertile layer that was any shade of pink or bright yellow to dark red. I could live with that, except time and again I tried to key out a species with yellow, orange or red pores and it was not in Key C where I would have expected to find it. Similarly, I carefully read the descriptor for Key D and frequently tried to key out a species that I thought would be in Key D, but it was not present. Ditto for Keys E through L.

The keys would be much easier to use had the authors continued making the broad choices as they did in leads 1 a,b and 2 a,b. Instead, they resorted to heavy use of drop-out keys, where a distinctive species is described and then the next choice is often “not as above.” Such a key is very tedious to wade through and requires exceptionally close reading to navigate. I will use Key M as an example. Lead 1a goes to a choice between two species. Lead 1b is “not as above.” Lead 2a leads to one more species, while 2b is “not as above.” Ditto for paired leads 3 a,b and 4 a,b. Only leads 5a,b take the reader to a choice that divides two clusters of species. Leads 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, 11b, 12b, 13b, 14b, 15b, 16b, 17b, 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 22b are all once again “not as above,” and this pattern largely continues through lead 42b (out of 44 leads in the key). I fear that most users would soon get so frustrated that they would just resort to thumbing through the pictures, a scenario neither I, nor the authors, desire.

To be clear, while I am disappointed with the keys, I love having the book. It is sorely needed, and anyone seriously interested in fungi should purchase this book no matter where they live. While many people may be reluctant to pay $65, this book is worth at least twice that. Go for it!



by Karen Monger

As a mushroom hunter, you likely already have an interest in finding what you seek. You use a set of clues—seasonality, geography or elevation, tree associates, guidebooks—to find culinary treasures or discover unknown species. If you are also a lover of art, the *Game of Shrooms* might be your next obsession.

Attaboy, image by Lena Reynoso

Game of Shrooms is a creative scavenger hunt, created by Daniel "Attaboy" Siefert (https://www.instagram.com/attayumfactory/) in 2019 on a global scale after planting myco-art in assorted locations on his own for several years. "I started it myself just planting mushrooms. I was in a depression and I was trying to regain control of my inner mental narrative," says Seifert. "I was painting pieces of cardboard and Popsicle sticks and hiding them wherever I went. No matter how that day would go, I would know I was in control of what I was doing."

I spoke with Attaboy and my questions were, "Why mushrooms? NAMA folks are hunting mushrooms to eat, some hunt to photograph, some hunt for scientific reasons. What is it about mushrooms that inspire your art?" He replied, "My grandmother had a ceramic studio when I was small. I'd paint them and she would put them in her mushroom garden. Her kitchen and living room were pretty much mushroom-themed. I like that mushrooms are interconnected, mysterious, pop up in unlikely places

Myco-art by Stephanie Kilgast

overnight, that they are tasty, and that if you eat the wrong ones you will bleed from your eyeballs. I like the insane amount of variety. I like how they spread, the spores, the colors, and that they feed on dead

organic matter. And of course, that they may have come from outer space and responsible for life on earth, heh? It's that interconnectedness and variety which makes the theme perfect for Game of Shrooms."

The next Game of Shrooms happens on June 11th, 2022. Artists and seekers from Hong Kong, Berlin, Japan, the UK, India, Russia, Switzerland, Tasmania, the U.S. and many more countries participate in the event, creating a world-wide non-religious, no cost, personally interactive "art show" of making and sharing, suspense, and sometimes absolute wonder. The general location of the art pieces are listed on a global map located at https://yumfactory.com/gameofshrooms/ Seekers receive clues to the exact location of the art piece from the artist's Instagram on game day, and if the piece is found the seeker can let the artist know by tagging them or sending an Instagram message.

I hope to see some myco-art hiders and myco-art seekers out in the wild this June!

Myco-art by Attaboy

Myco-art by Steve Casino

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